

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /068 W

-----031740 012251Z /65

P R 012225Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3676

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 1543

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3149

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, MASS, NU

SUBJECT: EMB PRESS RELEASE ISSUE COOLS DOWN

REF: STATE 151637

SUMMARY: DESPITE CENSORSHIP, EMB PRESS RELEASE RE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE IS GETTING WIDE DISTRIBUTION. OPPOSITIONISTS ARE DELIGHTED. GON IS PROBABLY STILL UNHAPPY BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENTS. THE RELEASE WAS DEBATED IN NATIONAL CONGRESS, AND LOWER CHAMBER PRESIDENT CORNELIO HUECK BECAME SO VITRIOLIC, GON DECIDED TO CENSOR HIM TOO. END SUMMARY

1. EMB HAS RECEIVED COPY OF FRONT PAGE MARKUP OF OPPOSITION DAILY LA PRENSA OF JUNE 27 IN WHICH EMB PRESS RELEASE WAS CENSORED BY GON. ONLY NEWS COVERAGE WHICH SLIPPED CENSORS WAS INDIRECT REFERENCE ON RADIO AND DAILY NEWSLETTER "BOLSA DE NOTICIAS" WHICH PHOTOCOPIED NEWS RELEASE. NEVERTHELESS, COPIES OF NEWS RELEASE HAVE FALLEN INTO HANDS OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS WHO HAVE MASS REPRODUCED COPIES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC.

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2. EMBOFFS HAVE RECEIVED CONGRATULATIONS FROM OPPOSITIONISTS FOR CALLING UP SHORT GON ATTEMPT TO CHARACTERIZE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE AS SOMOZA VICTORY AND DEFEAT FOR NICARAGUA'S ENEMIES. STUDENT GROUPS WHO WERE INITIALLY MOTIVATED TO PROTEST US GRANTING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA, REPORTEDLY CALMED DOWN WHEN THEY LEARNED OF EMB PRESS RELEEEASE.

3. CHARGE HAS HAD CEREMONIAL AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH GON OFFICIALS IN WHICH SUBJECT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN RAISED. THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL FEEDBACK AS RESULT OF DEPT'S SOLID REJECTION OF AMB. SEVILLA'S DEMARCHES (REFTTEL-NOTAL). OTHER EMBOFFS HAVE DISCUSSED PRESS RELEASE WITH NATCNAL GUARD AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT HAPPY WITH OUR POSITION, WE MAY BE ACHIEVING THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF IT. LOCAL RUMOR MILLS PERCEIVE ISSUANCE OF EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE AS INDICATION OF FURTHER DISTANCING OF USG FROM SOMOZA REGIME.

4. THE ONE FURTHER STRIDENT REACTION CAME PREDICTABLY FROM LOWER CHAMBER PRESIDENT CORNELIO HUECK WHO REACTED VITRIOLICLY IN CONGRESSIONAL SESSION OF JUNE 29. IN THIS SESSSION CONSERVATIVE PARTY POLITICAL SECRETARY, EDUARDO CHAMORRO, READ THE EMB PRESS RELEASE (OR EXCERPTS). HUECK, GESTICULATING AND POUNDING HIS DESK, STATED EMB'S PRESS RELEASE WAS AN INSULT (IRRESPETO) TO THE CONGRESS OF THE US. HIS ARGUMENT WAS THAT EMB WAS MISREPRESENTING CONGRESSIONAL VOTE WHICH HAD RECOGNIZED THAT NICARAGUA SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ON LIST OF COUNTRIES DEPRIVED OF AID. HUECK SAID THIS DID NOT BOTHER HIM AS NICARAGUAN BUT WHAT DID CONCERN HIM WAS IN PRIOR VOTES NICARAGUA, ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, HAD BEEN QUOTE CONDEMNED WITHOUT BEING HEARD UNQUOTE. ANOTHER LIBERAL PARTY DEPUTY, ZURITA, SUPPORTED HUECK'S INTERPRETATION BUT POINTED OUT MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CORRESPONDS TO EXECUTIVE POWER QUOTE NOT TO THIS CHAMBER UNQUOTE.

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5. THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE WAS RECORDED BY TELEVISION. WHEN TV STATION SOUGHT CLEARANCE FROM CENSOR FOR BROADCAST ON 10:00 P.. NEWS, SERIES OF HURRIED CONSULTATIONS WERE CONDUCTED WITHIN GN LEADERSHIP AND LEAD TO REFERRAL TO OFFICE OF PRESIDENT. RESULT WAS THAT HUECK'S DIATRIBE WAS CENSORED.

6. COMMENT: WITH THE STATUS QUO, EMB PRESS RELEASE WILL PROBABLY HAVE AS WIDE CIRCULATION AMONG POLITICALLY ACTIVE SECTORS AS IF IT HAD BEEN AIRED IN LOCAL MEDIA. FURTHER, THE FACT RELEASE WAS CENSORED BY GON GIVES IT ADDED AURA OF SIGNIFICANCE AMONG OPPOSITIONISTS. AT THE SAME TIME, WITH NO APPROACH HAVING BEEN MADE BY GON TO DISCUSS OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AND HOW IMPASSE MIGHT BE RESOLVED, EMB ATTEMPT TO CORRECT MISIMPRESSION OF CONGRESSIONAL VOTE FOSTERED BY GON REMAINS FRUSTRATED BY CENSORSHIP.

RUBENSTEIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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